Family Matters

Women in Nova Scotia

Part 2 of a Statistical Series

Nova Scotia Advisory Council
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About the Council...

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women was established by provincial statute in 1977. The Council's mandate under the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act is to advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and to bring forward the concerns of women in Nova Scotia.

The Council's work touches on all areas of women's lives, including...

- ♀ family life
- ♀ economics
- ♀ legal rights
- ♀ sexuality
- ♀ health
- ♀ education
- ♀ paid and unpaid work
- ♀ violence

Council pays close attention to the experiences of women who face barriers to full equality because of race, age, language, class, ethnicity, religion, ability, sexual orientation, or various forms of family status.

We are committed to voicing women's concerns to government and the community through policy research, information services and community liaison. Working cooperatively with women and equality-seeking organizations, our mission is to advance equality, fairness and dignity for all women.

Acknowledgements

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Preface

The purpose of this statistical series is to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences for statistics describing the situation of women in Nova Scotia. Ready access to statistical information on important aspects of women's lives such as family, education, paid and unpaid work, income, and health meets many different needs. For instance, requests for statistical information make up a significant proportion of all requests for service made to our resource centre. Policy makers, educators, students, and many other individuals and organizations are frequent users of such information. Current statistical information is essential to provide advice to government about policies and programs that affect women.

In 1990, the Nova Scotia Women's Directorate published Women in Nova Scotia: A Statistical Handbook, a synthesis of facts and figures on women in Nova Scotia. The first edition of Women in Nova Scotia was an overwhelming success. Audiences ranging from government policy makers, women's organizations, educators, students, and the media made frequent and varied use of the materials. Due to the continuing high demand, a second edition of Women in Nova Scotia was released in 1995 with updated statistics and an easier-to-read format.

The current series, therefore, marks the third "edition" of Women in Nova Scotia. The change to a series rather than handbook format will allow for a greater frequency of publication. As with previous editions, this series has been designed to provide easy access to facts and figures about women in Nova Scotia. Considerable effort has been made to use the most up-to-date statistics available as well as to present data on the wide diversity of women in Nova Scotia, including young women, older women, Black and other racially-visible women, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities whenever such data were available. The array of topics covered has now expanded to include a section on women's health, well-being and personal safety in addition to the sections on demography and family life, education, paid and unpaid work, and income/poverty that have been included in previous editions. Additionally, all sections of the current series will be made available in PDF format on the Advisory Council's website (http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/). These changes and the resulting statistical series will appeal to an even wider audience and will be of use to many individuals and organizations.

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Introduction

Having an understanding of a population and how it is changing demographically is often helpful in making sense of statistical findings in other areas such as employment, health and family life. For this reason, a few basic demographic concepts about the Nova Scotia population will be introduced before examining the most current data on Nova Scotia women and their families.

Nova Scotia, A Changing Population

Nova Scotia 's population is changing in a number of significant ways.

The population of the province, as with the rest of North America, is aging. Nova Scotians are living longer today than ever before, close to 20 years longer than Nova Scotians who were born in the early part of the 20th century. The "baby boomers" (the more than 350,000 people born in Nova Scotia between 1947 and 1966) are getting older and, as a result, the proportion of seniors in the province is expected to increase dramatically from 13 percent in 1999 to close to 25 percent by 2026.

Nova Scotia's population growth is declining. Few Nova Scotian couples are having more than two children and many are having one or no children. Few people are moving to Nova Scotia from either other provinces or from outside Canada.

If these trends continue, the total number of people living in the province will decline and there will be more seniors than there are children. Such significant demographic changes can be expected to affect most facets of our lives. Demands on programs or services for seniors such as pension plans, health care, and in-home support will increase dramatically. With fewer children being born, there will be fewer children entering schools and fewer young adults entering the workforce to take the place of retiring baby boomers.

Because the majority of seniors are women, many of whom are unattached and many of whom have some form of disability, the capacity of communities to meet the challenge of caring for an aging population is particularly relevant to women.

Family Life and Child Rearing

Though family life in Nova Scotia and across North America is changing in many respects, it is clear that family remains vitally important to the lives of most Nova Scotians.

The vast majority (87.9 percent) of Nova Scotians live in private households with relatives. While married couples with children remain the norm in terms of family types, comprising 45 percent of all families living in Nova Scotia, the percentage of this family type has declined by 5 percent in recent years (1981-1996) while the percentage of female lone-parents has increased by 58 percent and the percentage of common-law couples with children has increased by 169 percent in the same time period.

Women from different ethno-cultural backgrounds appear to differ in terms of marital status. While Black and Aboriginal women are less likely to be married than all women in Nova Scotia, the inverse is true for Immigrant women.

Overall, fewer men and women in Nova Scotia are marrying and those who choose to marry are doing so later in life than before, typically not until their late 20s. In addition to delaying marriage, Nova Scotia women are also delaying having children. The proportion of births to mothers over the age of 30 has increased substantially in recent years.

Just over one third (34.7 percent) of babies born in Nova Scotia are now born to unmarried mothers. This represents a five-fold increase since the early 1960s when less than 7 percent of babies in the province were born to unmarried mothers. Female-headed lone-parent families comprise just over 20 percent of all families with children in the province, more than in any other province. Unlike in the past, most female lone parents today are either single (never married) or divorced/separated rather than widowed. Only 20 percent of unmarried women giving birth today are under the age of 20.

While lone-parent families (both male and female-headed) account for just under a quarter of families with children in the province, more than half (57.5 percent) of Nova Scotia's poor children come from lone-parent families. It is clear that addressing the problem of child poverty in Nova Scotia necessitates ensuring that the economic conditions for lone parents (85 percent of whom are female) improve. Factors related to high rates of poverty among female lone-parent families include low labour force participation and low levels of education of lone-

mothers. Programs designed to assist lone parents must therefore take into consideration that most lone parents are not teenagers and that they have specific educational and employment needs.

Women and girls make up 51% of the Nova Scotia population.

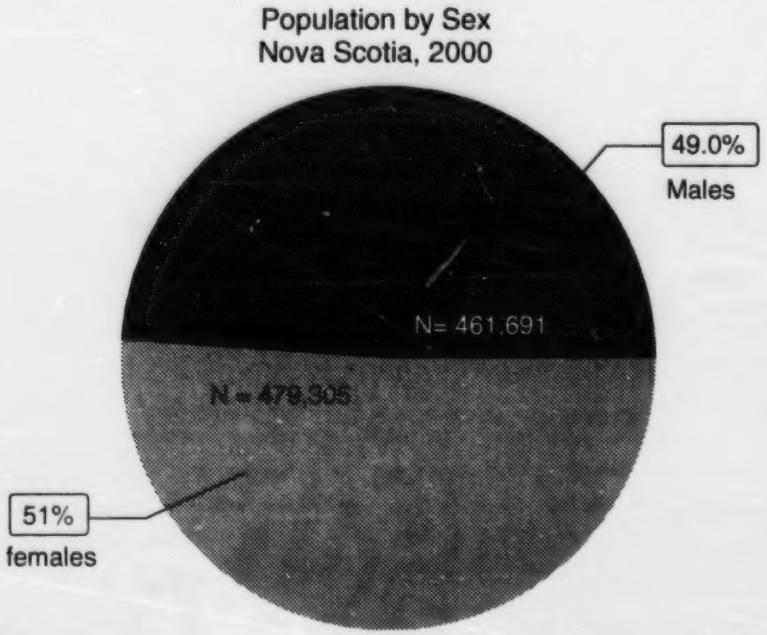

Figure 1.

- Currently, the population of Nova Scotia is 939,791. The number of females in the province outnumbers, by a small margin, the number of males.

- In 1996, Black Nova Scotians made up 2% (18,105) of the population of the province. 54% of Black Nova Scotians are female, while 46% are male. All other racially visible minority groups combined made up another 1.5% of the Nova Scotia population.

- In 1996, Aboriginal persons made up 1.4% (12,380) of the population of the province. 52% of Aboriginal Nova Scotians are female, 48% are male.

- In 1996, Nova Scotia's immigrants made up 4.7% (41,955) of the province's population. 51% of Nova Scotia's immigrant population is female, while 49% is male.

The Nova Scotia population is aging.

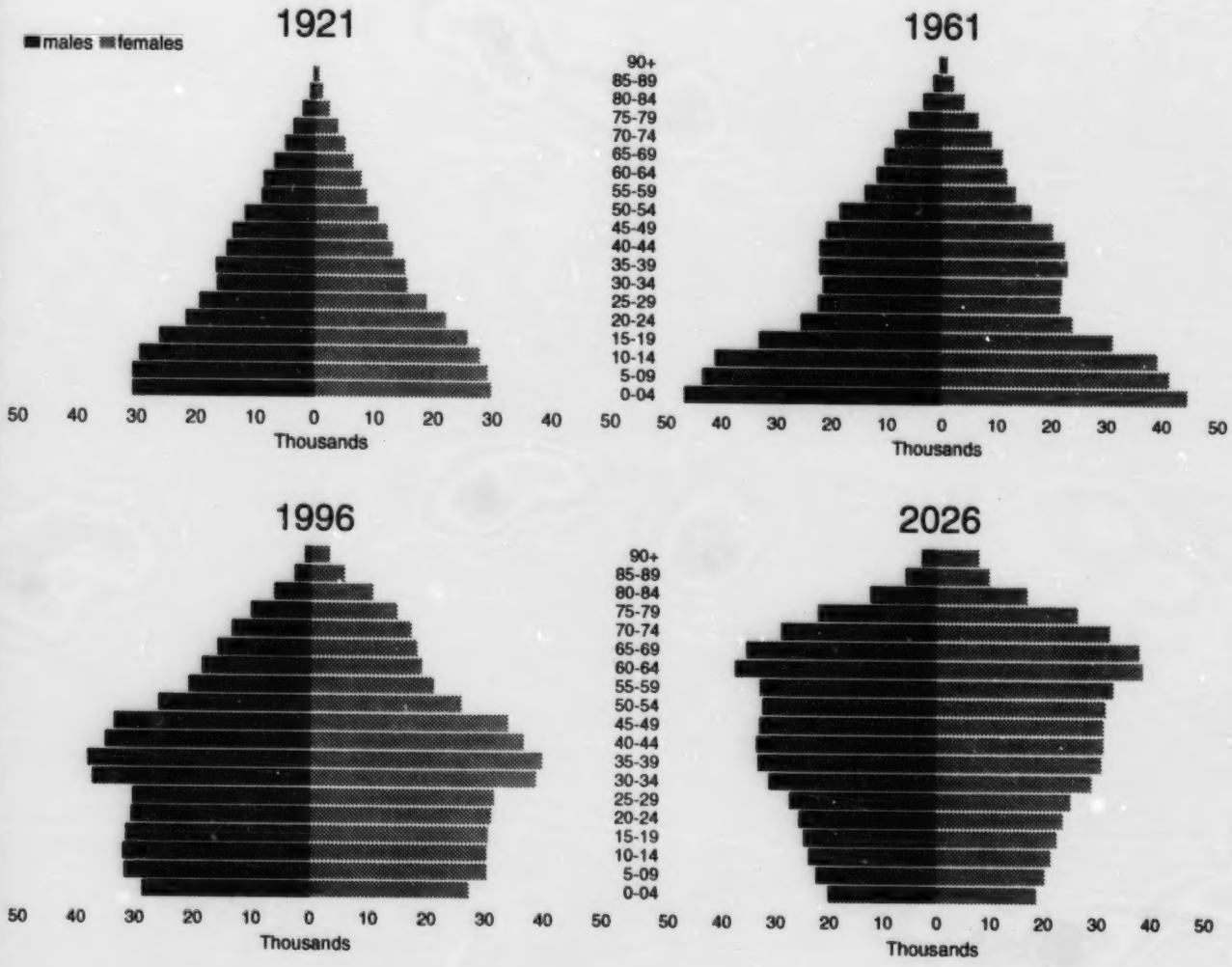

Figure 2.

- As with the rest of North America, Nova Scotia's population is aging. The oldest of the "baby boomers" are now approaching retirement.
- In 1999, 13.2% of the population of Nova Scotia was aged 65 and over. By the year 2026, close to one quarter (24.5%) of the population will be aged 65 +.

The age of different population groups in Nova Scotia varies considerably.

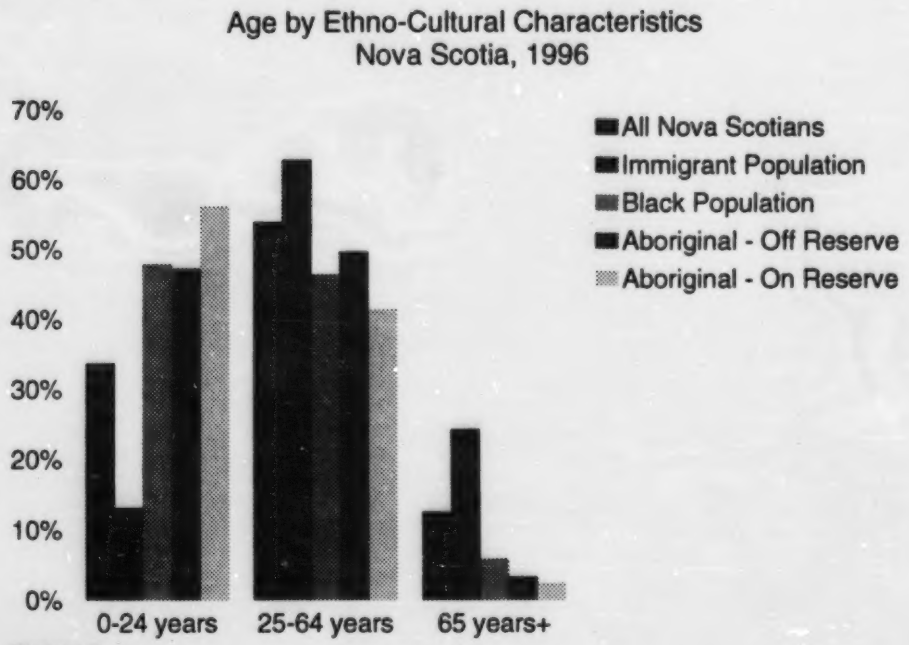

Figure 3.

- The age of Nova Scotians varies considerably depending on their ethno-cultural background.
- Immigrant Nova Scotians are much less likely than all Nova Scotians to be aged 0-24 (13 and 34 percent, respectively) and are almost twice as likely to be aged 65+ as are all Nova Scotians (24 and 13 percent, respectively).
- Conversely, Nova Scotia's Black and Aboriginal populations are much more likely to be young and less likely to be old than the population as a whole.

There are more older women in Nova Scotia than there are older men.

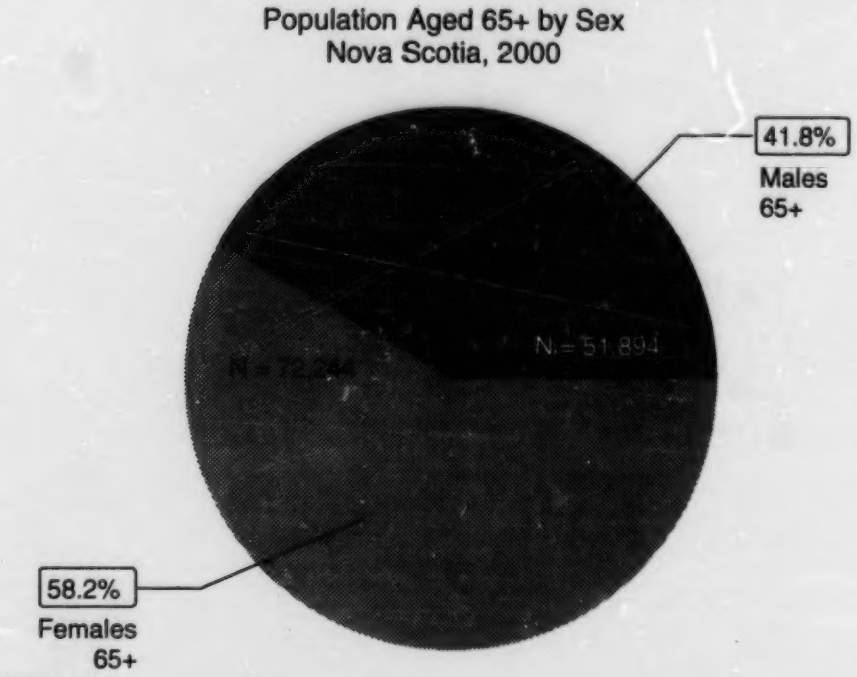

Figure 4.

- In 2000, 15% of all females and 11 % of all males in Nova Scotia were aged 65+.
- There are greater numbers of older women than older men because women's life expectancy is significantly longer than men's.
- Currently, average life expectancy for women in Nova Scotia is 80.4 years while for men it is 77.8 years.
- By the year 2026, it is estimated that 26.9% of all females and 22.1% of all males in Nova Scotia will be aged 65 +.

Women make up the vast majority of older seniors.

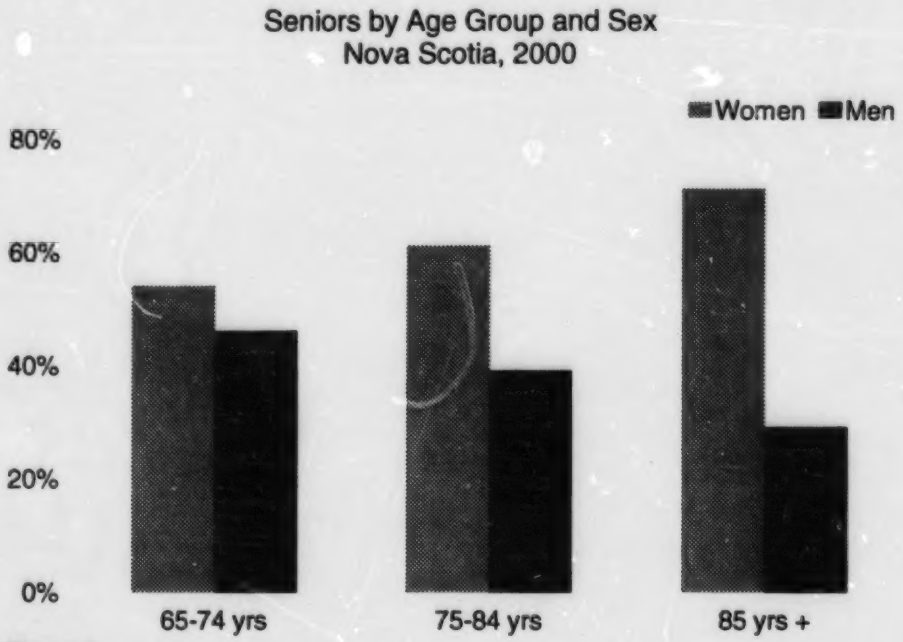

Figure 5.

- Because women's life expectancy is longer than men's, there are many more older seniors who are women.
- 54 percent of persons aged 65 to 74 years are women and 46 percent are men.
- 61 percent of persons aged 75 to 84 years are women and 39 percent are men.
- 71 percent of persons aged 85 years and over are women and 29 percent are men.

More than 20 percent of Nova Scotia's population is disabled.

Disability Rates by Age and Sex
Nova Scotia, 1991

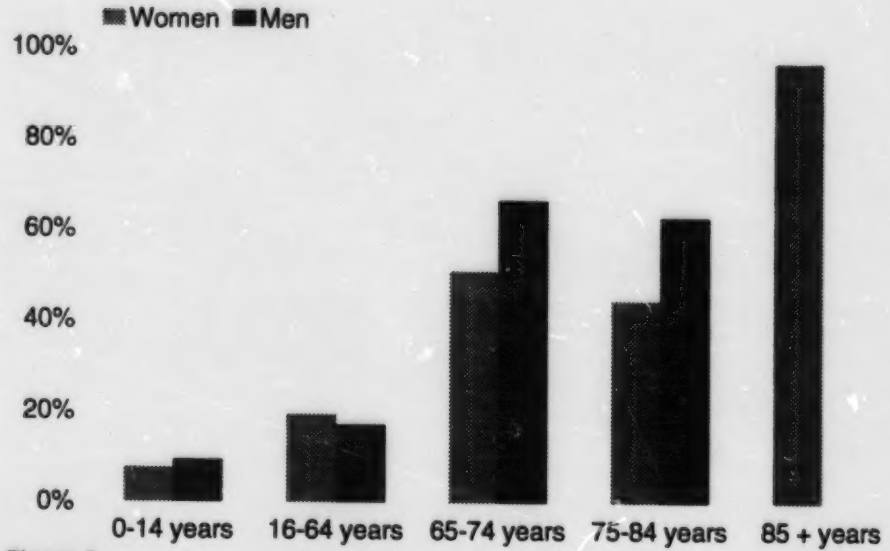

Figure 6.

- Nova Scotia's disability rate at, 21.1 percent (1991), is the highest of all the provinces and is more than 5 percentage points higher than the national average.
- Overall, Nova Scotian women's (21.8%) and men's (20.3%) disability rates are comparable.
- Older men, aged 65-74 and 75-84 have higher rates of disability than their female counterparts.
- Close to 97% of women aged 85 and over have a disability.

Much of Nova Scotia's population lives in rural areas.

Urban and Rural Population Distribution
Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996

Figure 7.

- In 1996, 45.2 percent of Nova Scotia's population (411,424 persons) was living in rural areas of the province. This is more than double the national proportion of rural dwellers.
- Similarly, 40 percent of Nova Scotia's seniors lives in rural areas, compared to 20 percent of seniors at the national level.

Nova Scotia's population growth rate is declining.

Total Fertility Rate
Nova Scotia, 1921-1997

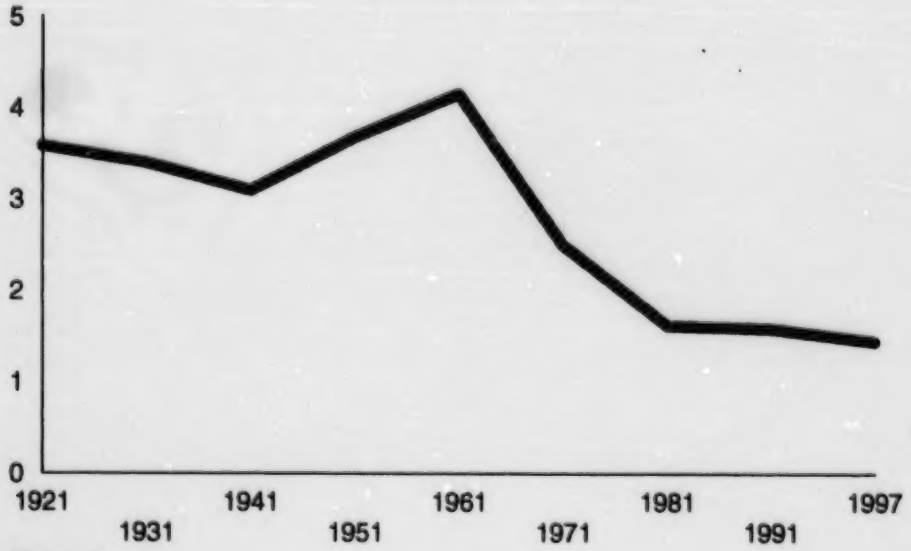

Figure 8.

- Nova Scotians today are having fewer children than in the past.
- Fertility rates have decreased dramatically since the baby boom of the 1950s and early 1960s.
- In order to maintain population replacement levels, the total fertility rate must reach 2.1 children per woman.
- In 1997, Nova Scotia's total fertility rate was 1.45.

There will be fewer Nova Scotians in the future than there are today.

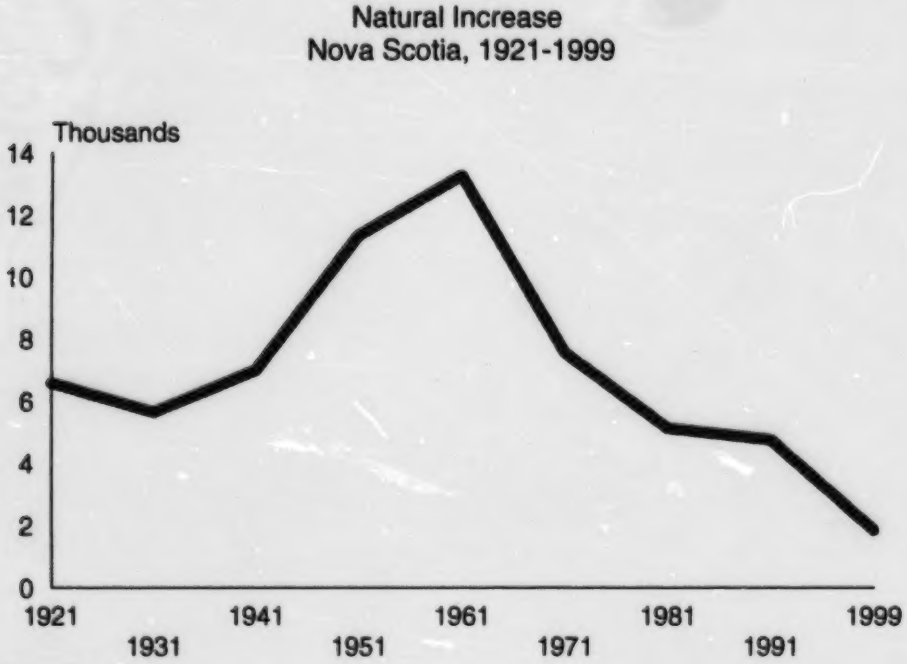

Figure 9.

- The effects of declining fertility are already evident.
- In 1961, there were 13,247 more births than deaths in Nova Scotia.
- By 1999, there were only 1,859 more births than deaths in Nova Scotia.
- It is projected that by the year 2026, there will be 3,700 more deaths than births in Nova Scotia.

Few people are moving to Nova Scotia.

Net Migration
Nova Scotia, 1972-1997

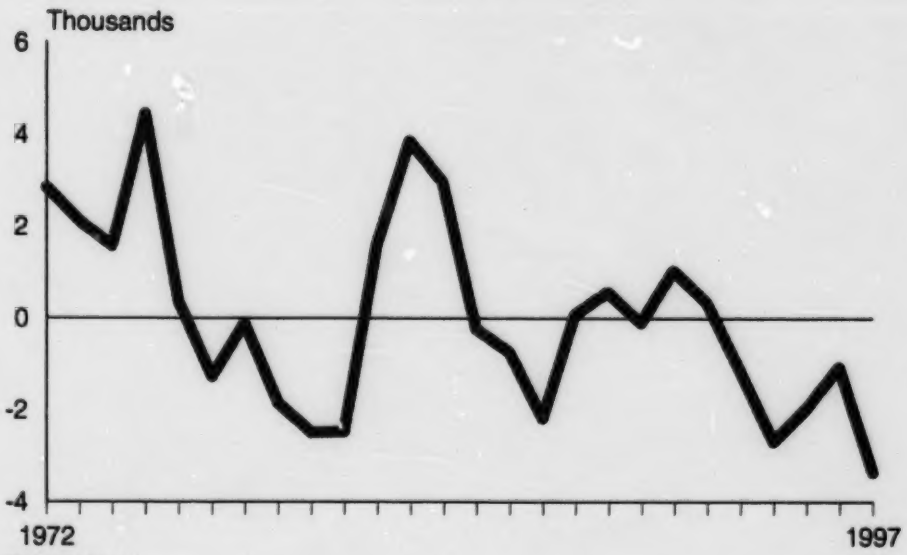

Figure 10.

- Over the past 30 years, the proportion of landed immigrants having Nova Scotia as their intended province of destination has ranged only between 0.6% and 1.7%.
- In 1998, 1.2% (N=2076) of landed immigrants coming to Canada settled in Nova Scotia.
- With respect to inter-provincial migration, in 1997-1998, 16,304 persons came to Nova Scotia from other provinces but 18,873 left Nova Scotia to go to other provinces.
- Given the current patterns of migration, both international and interprovincial, it is very unlikely that migration will offset the decline in Nova Scotia's birth rate.

Nova Scotians' life expectancy is increasing.

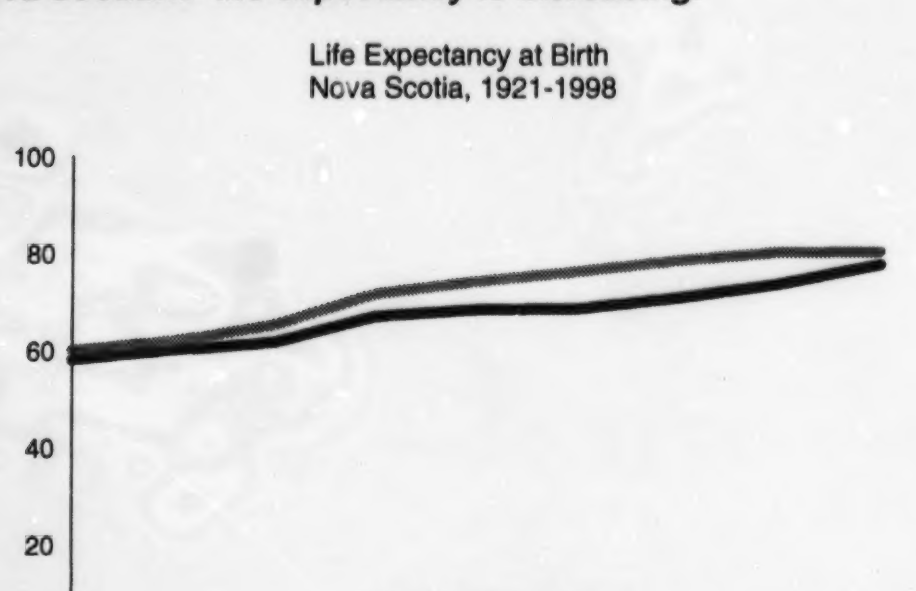

Figure 11.

- Overall, girls and boys born in Nova Scotia today are expected to live close to 20 years longer than those who were born in the early part of the 20th century.
- Although women's life expectancy is greater than that of men's, the gap between women's and men's life expectancy has narrowed considerably in recent years.
- In 1998, life expectancy at birth was 80.4 years for females and 77.8 years for males.

There will be greater numbers of seniors and fewer children in Nova Scotia's future.

Children and Seniors as Proportion of Population
Nova Scotia, 1921-2026

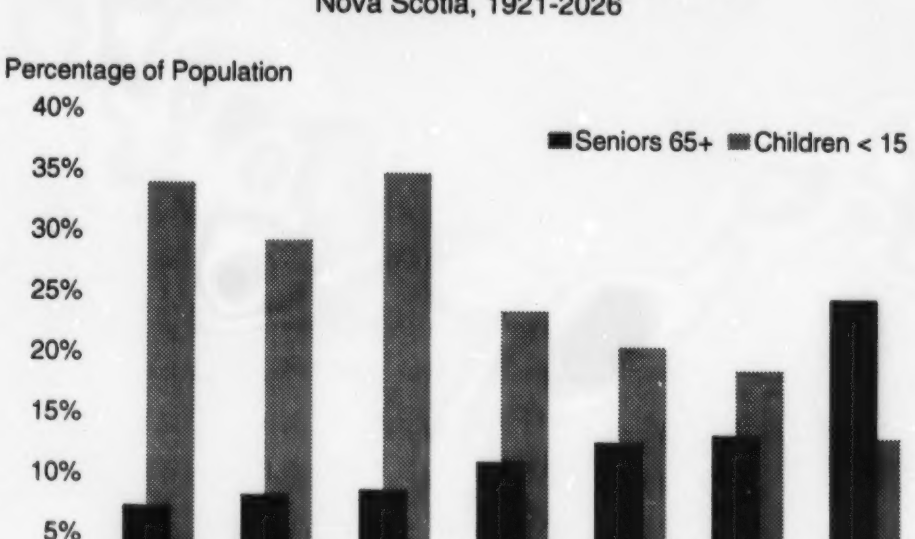

Figure 12.

- In 1961, there were four times as many children in Nova Scotia as there were seniors.
- In 1999, there were only 1.4 times as many children as seniors.
- If current demographic trends continue, by 2026, there will be 1.9 times as many seniors as there are children in Nova Scotia.
- As a result of these trends, there will be fewer children entering schools and fewer young adults entering the labour force. There will also be greater numbers of workers reaching retirement age and leaving the labour force.

Demands on pension plans are increasing.

		Men		Women		Total	
	Year	Number	$'000	Number	$'000	Number	$'000
Old Age Security	1990	41,140	$163,837	44,700	$179,470	85,910	$343,307
	1994	44,290	$196,275	50,640	$227,438	94,930	$423,713
	1997	48,960	$282,334	69,100	$437,864	118,060	$720,198
Canada Pension Plan	1990	55,960	$270,857	49,000	$163,818	104,960	$434,676
	1994	65,290	$365,717	59,470	$239,133	124,760	$604,850
	1997	72,420	$436,172	72,430	$319,025	144,850	$755,197
Other Pensions	1990	39,660	$430,209	25,220	$159,905	64,880	$590,114
	1994	44,410	$587,983	29,370	$233,950	73,770	$821,934
	1997	50,480	$826,452	35,830	$360,174	86,310	$1,186,626

Table 1.

- As the population of Nova Scotia ages, it is clear that demands on pension plans are increasing.
- Over the relatively short period from 1990 to 1997, the amounts that Nova Scotians drew from pension plans grew by 110% for old age security, 74% for the Canada Pension Plan, and 101% for other pensions.
- Although elderly women outnumber elderly men, men are receiving more income from pension plans, most of which are tied to income earned over one's lifetime.

Most people in Nova Scotia live in private households with relatives.

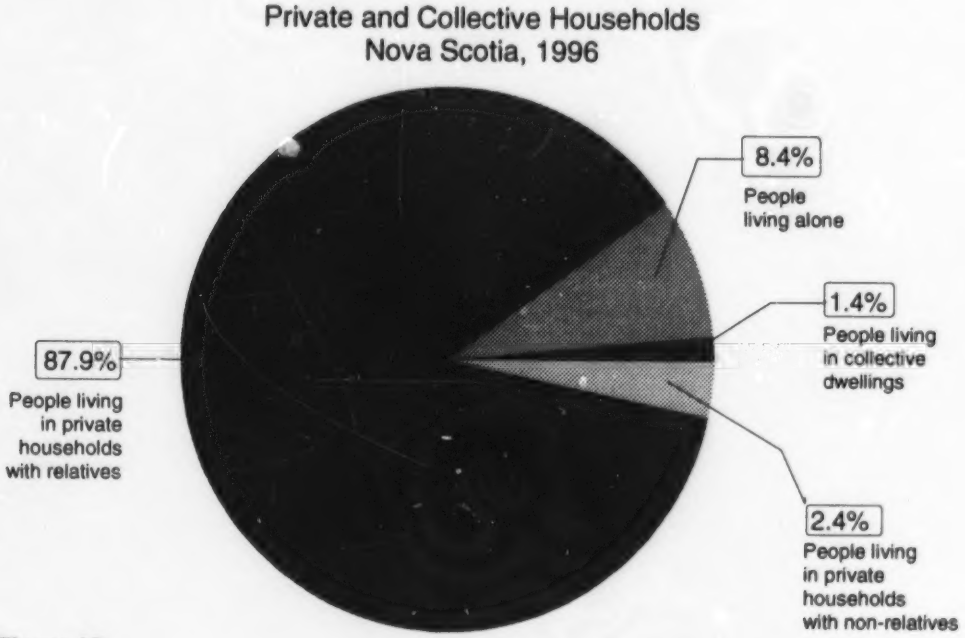

Figure 13.

- The vast majority (87.9%) of Nova Scotians live with family members in private households.
- Although the proportion of persons living in collective dwellings (eg., hospitals and special care homes for elderly or chronically ill persons) is small, women comprise the majority of these persons.
- In 1996, women made up 58% of the population in collective dwellings overall, 64% of the population in institutional collective dwellings, and 71% of the population in special care homes for elderly and chronically ill persons in Nova Scotia.

Females are less likely to be single and more likely to be widowed than males.

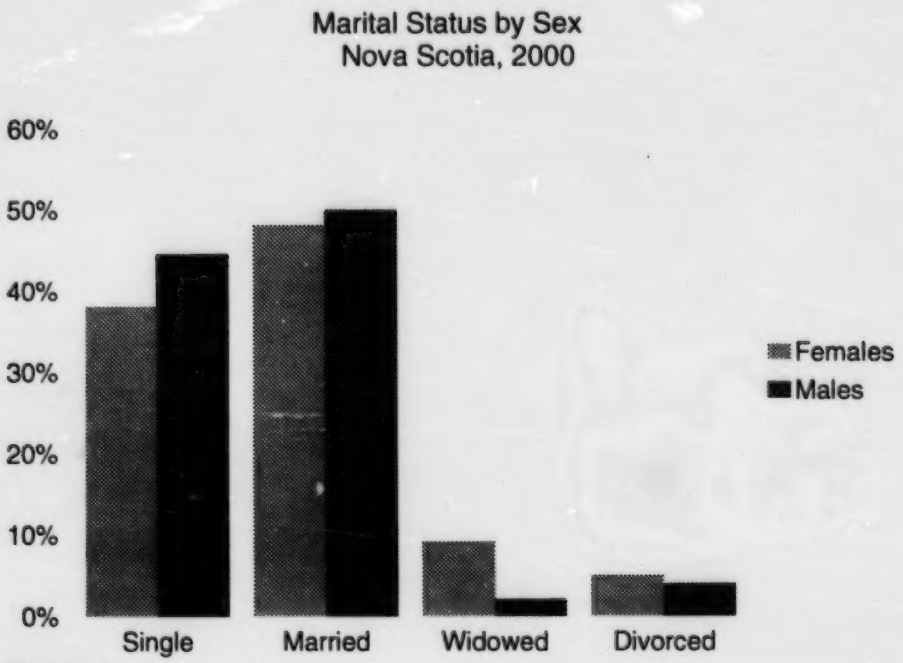

Figure 14.

- Taking the entire population into consideration, females in Nova Scotia are somewhat less likely to be single than males in Nova Scotia. Thirty-eight percent of all females in Nova Scotia are single versus 44.4 percent of males.

- Females in Nova Scotia are much more likely to be widowed than males in Nova Scotia. Nine percent of all females in Nova Scotia are widowed versus two percent of all males.

- Age differences among men and women in the population likely account for part of the differences in marital status between men and women.

Marital status varies depending on women's ethno-cultural background.

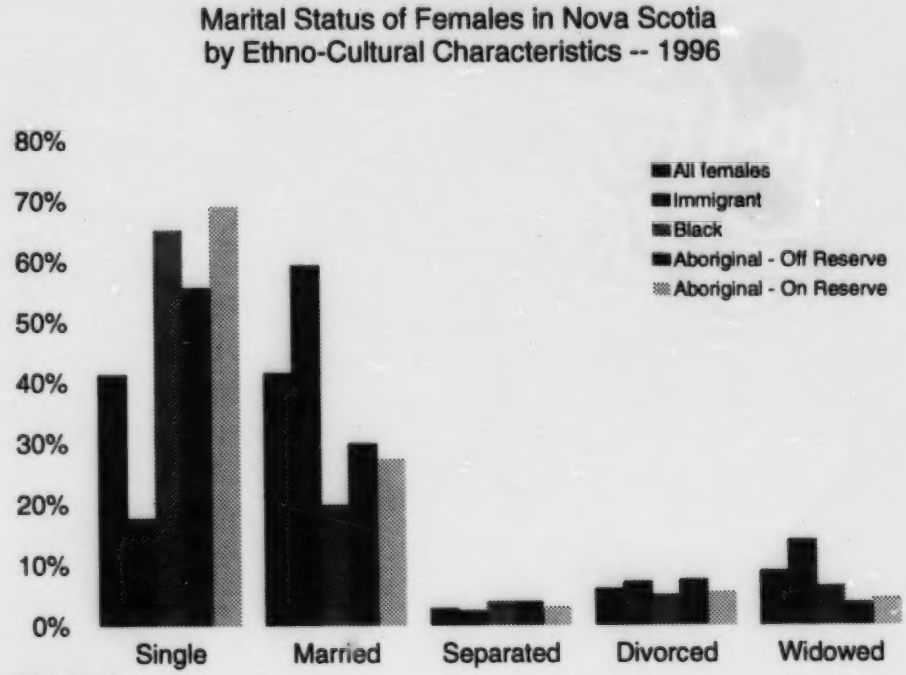

Figure 15.

- There are considerable differences in women's legal marital status depending on the ethno-cultural group to which they belong.
- Black women (19.8%) and Aboriginal women, both on-reserve (27.3%) and off-reserve (29.8), are considerably less likely to be married than all Nova Scotian women (41.5%).
- Conversely, Immigrant women are more likely to be married than all Nova Scotian women (59.2% versus 41.5%).

Depending on their ethno-cultural background, women who do not live in families have different living arrangements.

Living Arrangements of Females not Living in Families
by Ethno-Cultural Characteristics, Nova Scotia, 1996

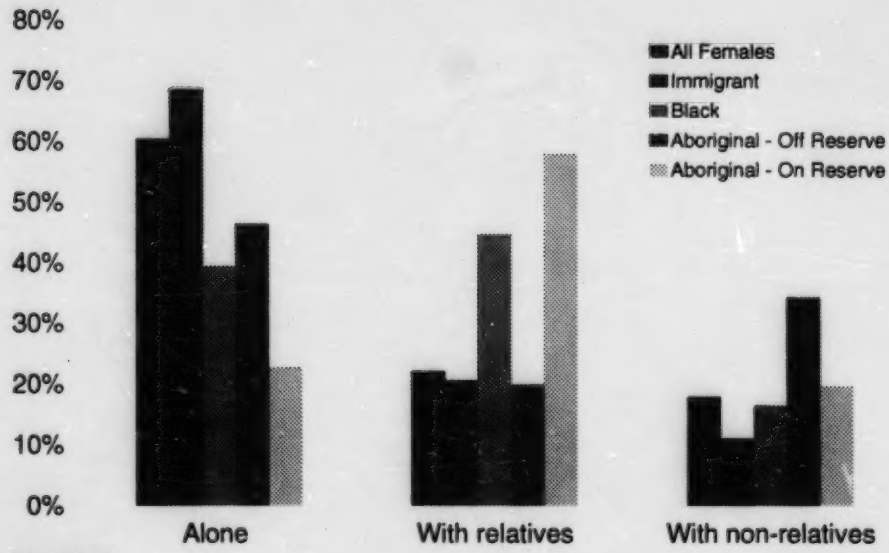

Figure 16.

- Though the vast majority (approximately 85 percent) of all women and men in Nova Scotia live in families (ie., married or common-law couples with or without children or lone-parents), the living arrangements of those that do not live in families appear to differ depending on their ethno-cultural background.

- Aboriginal women living on-reserve and Black women who do not live in families are much more likely to live with other relatives (eg., cousins, siblings, etc.) than to live with non-relatives and are the least likely to live alone.

- Immigrant women who do not live in families, on the other hand, are more likely to live alone (68.5 percent) than other population groups.

Who lives alone in Nova Scotia?

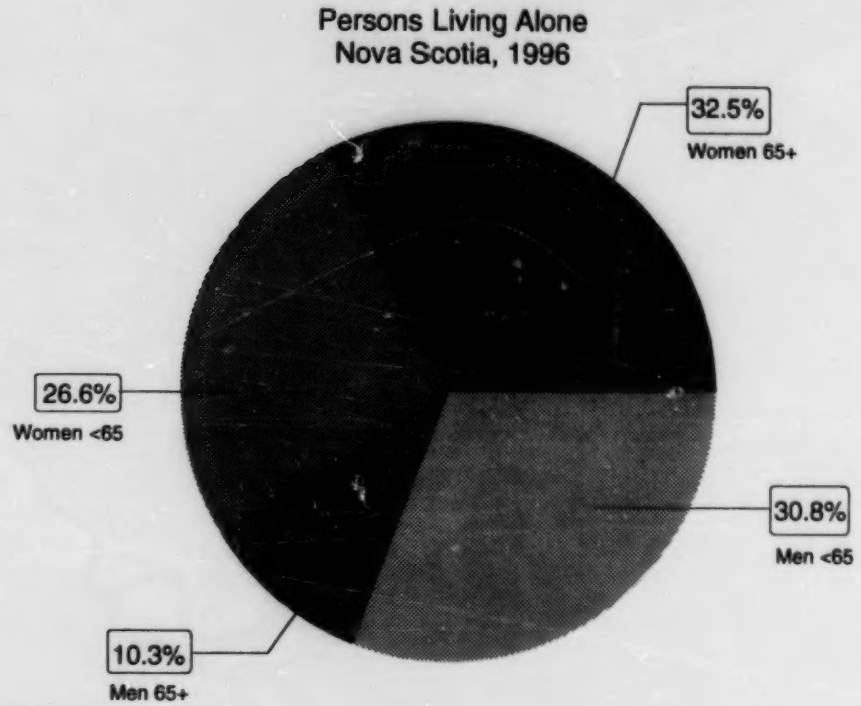

Figure 17.

- Close to 60 percent of persons who live alone in Nova Scotia are women.
- One third of those who live alone are women aged 65+.
- Three times as many women aged 65+ live alone than men aged 65+.

Senior women are much more likely to be widowed than senior men.

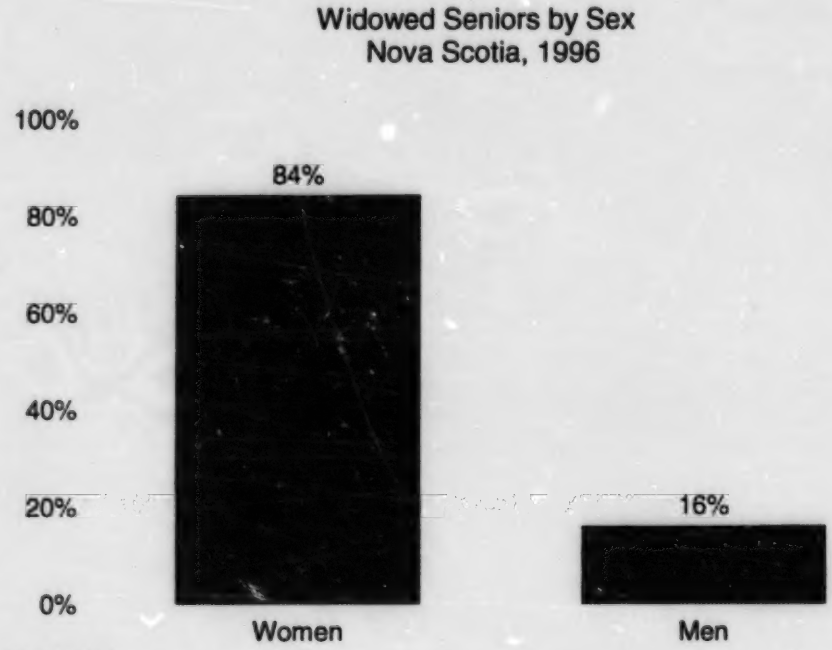

Figure 18.

- The vast majority (84 percent) of widowed seniors in Nova Scotia are women.
- There are more than five times as many senior women who are widowed than there are senior men who are widowed.

Married couples with children outnumber all other types of families in Nova Scotia.

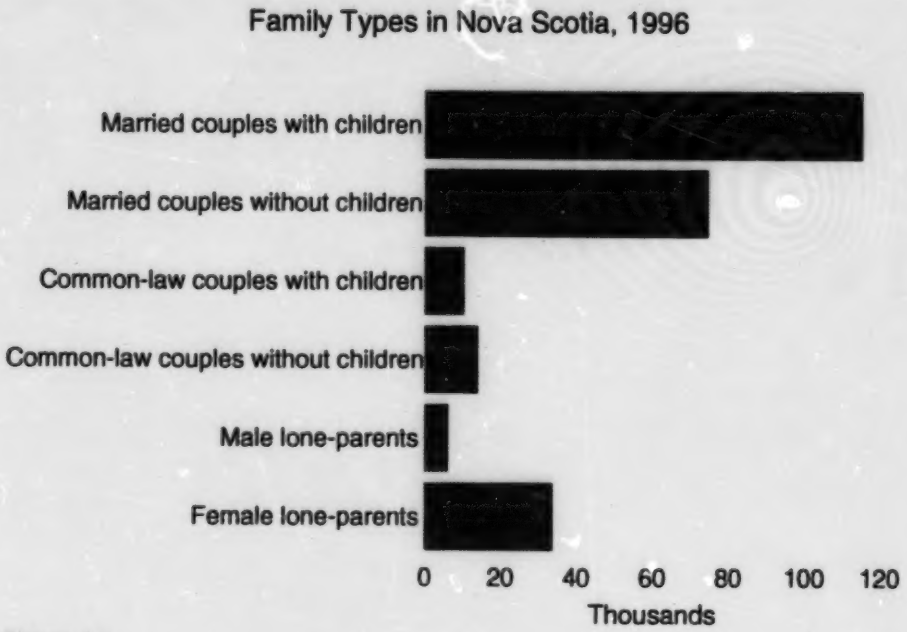

Figure 19.

- Forty-five percent of all families living in Nova Scotia are married couples with children living at home.
- An additional 29 percent of families are married couples who do not have any children living at home.
- The third most prevalent type of family in Nova Scotia are those headed by female lone parents (13 percent).
- Families headed by lone parents made up almost one quarter (24 percent) of families with children in Nova Scotia in 1996.

Women's family status varies depending on their ethno-cultural background.

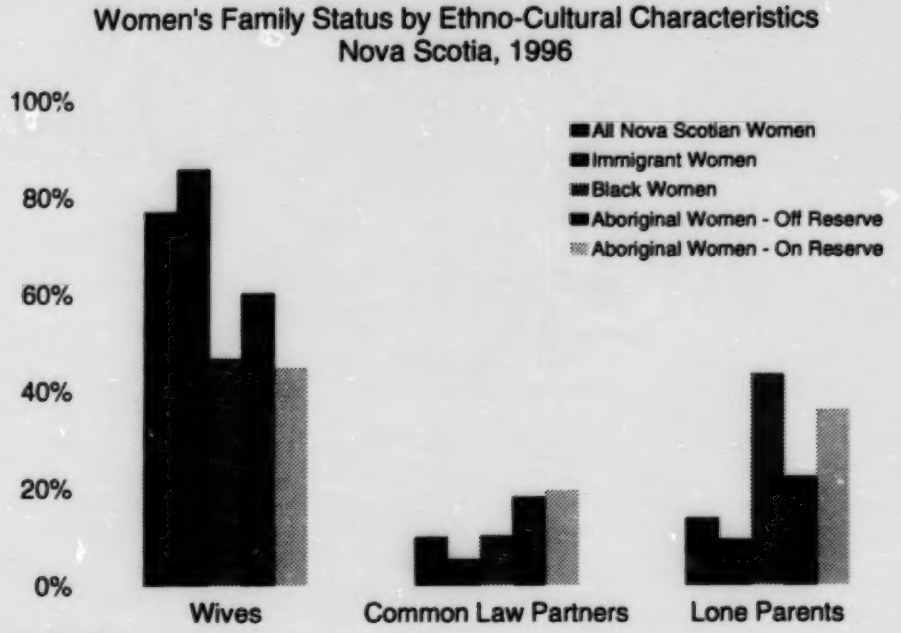

Figure 20.

- Though the majority of women who live in families are married, regardless of ethno-cultural background, there is considerable variation among groups with respect to family status.
- Immigrant women (85.5%), all Nova Scotian women (76.7%), and Aboriginal women living off-reserve (59.9%) are the most likely to be part of a husband-wife family.
- Aboriginal women living on-reserve (19.3%) and off-reserve (18%) are most likely to be part of common-law partnerships, whereas Immigrant women are the least likely to be living common law (5.2%).
- Black women (43.3%) and Aboriginal women living on-reserve (35.9%) are most likely and Immigrant women (9.3%) are least likely to be lone parents.

Common-law families and lone parenting are on the rise.

Percentage Increase in Family Types
Nova Scotia, 1981-1996

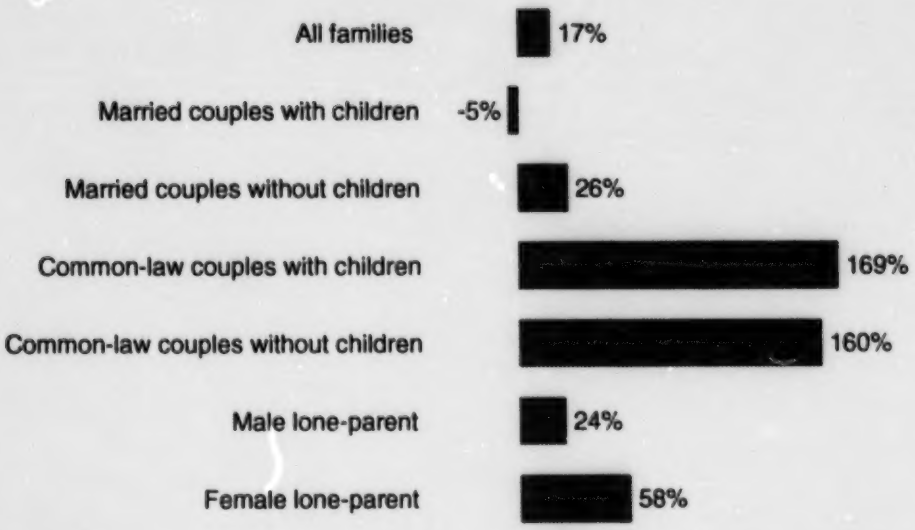

Figure 21.

- Between 1981 and 1996, the percentage of common-law couples with and without children increased by 169 percent and 160 percent, respectively.
- Between 1981 and 1996, the percentage of female headed and male headed lone-parent families increased by 58 percent and 24 percent, respectively.
- Between 1981 and 1996, the percentage of married couples with children declined by 5 percent while the percentage of married couples without children increased by 26 percent.

The proportion of women and men who marry is declining.

Figure 22.

- In 1976, the total first marriage rate was 736 per thousand for women and 743 per thousand for men.
- In 1997, the total first marriage rate was 583 per thousand for women and 556 per thousand for men.

Women and men in Nova Scotia are delaying marriage.

Average Age at First Marriage
Nova Scotia, 1971-1996

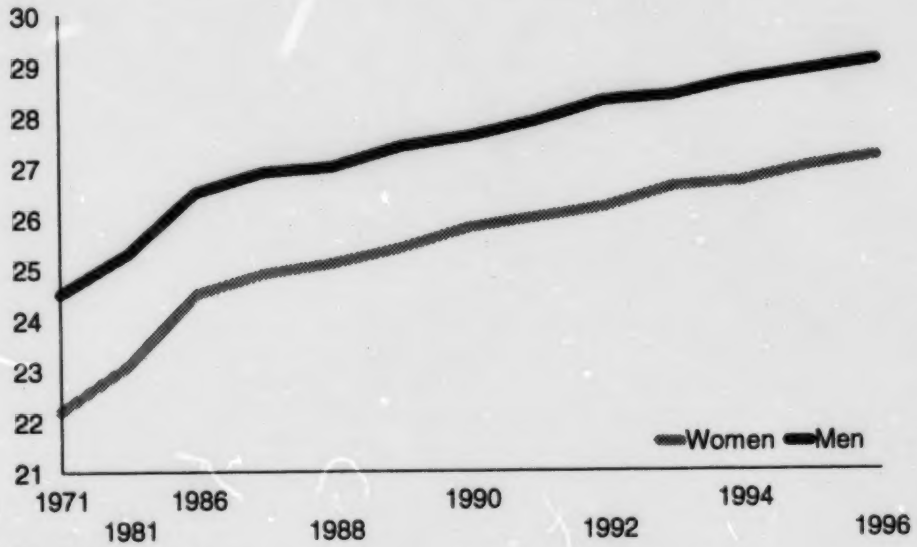

Figure 23.

- The average age at which Nova Scotians are marrying for the first time is increasing for both women and men.
- In 1971, the average age at first marriage was 22.2 years for women and 24.5 years for men.
- In 1996, the average age at first marriage was 27.2 years for women and 29.1 years for men.

Marriage and divorce

Marriages and Divorces
Nova Scotia, 1971-1998

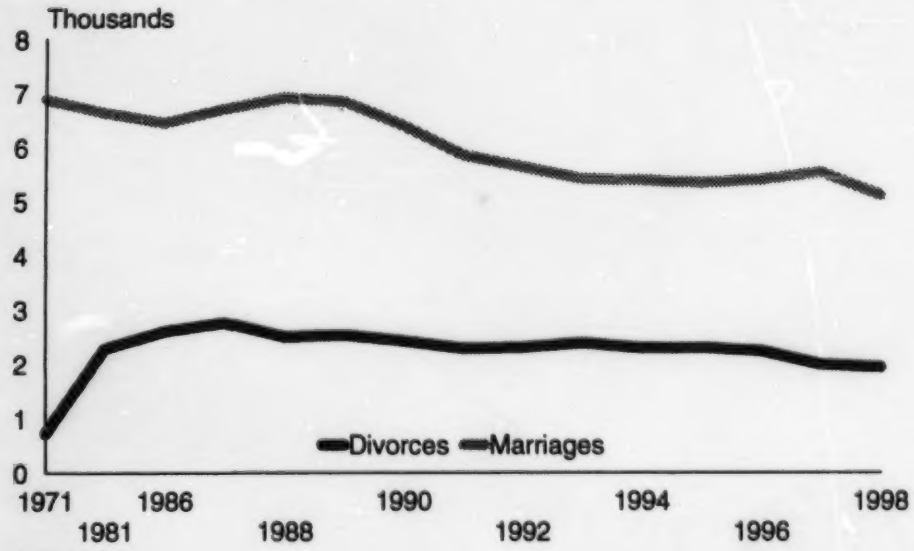

Figure 24.

- In 1971, there were 6,883 marriages and 721 divorces in Nova Scotia, for a ratio of 9.6 marriages for each divorce.
- In 1998, there were 5,103 marriages and 1,933 divorces in Nova Scotia, for a ratio of 2.6 marriages for each divorce.
- The number of divorces in Nova Scotia peaked at 2,759 in 1987, following changes to the *Divorce Act*. Since then, the number of divorces in the province has shown a slow but steady decline due, in part, to the declining number of marriages and the increasing age of persons getting married.
- In 1998, the proportion of married couples expected to divorce before their 30th wedding anniversary (total divorce rate) was 28.2 percent for Nova Scotia and 36.1 percent for Canada as a whole.

In over half of divorces, women have custody of dependant children.

Custody of Dependent Children in Divorce
Nova Scotia, 1998

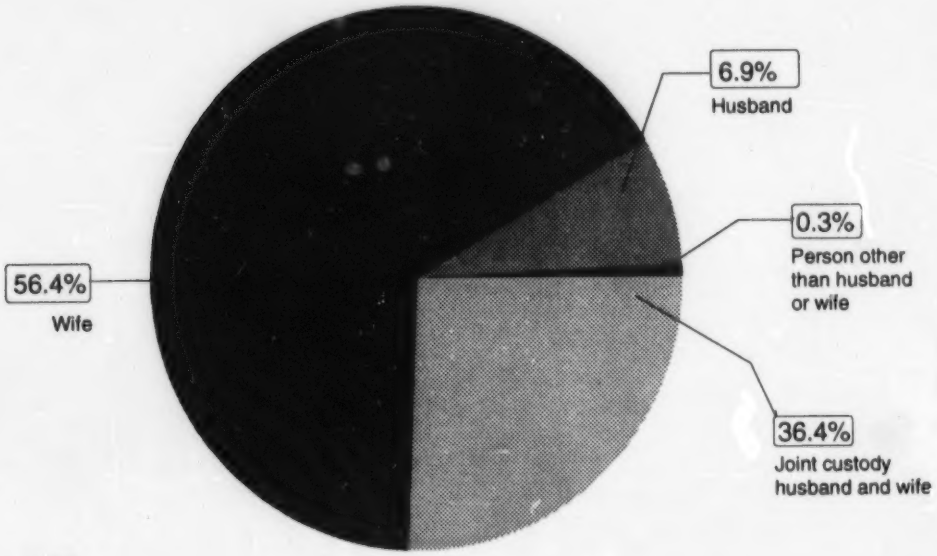

Figure 25.

- There were 1723 dependent children in the families of Nova Scotian couples who divorced in 1998.
- Mothers were awarded sole custody of dependent children in over half (56.4 percent) of those divorces.
- Fathers were awarded sole custody in close to 7 percent of those divorces.
- Joint custody orders were made in just over one third (36.4 percent) of divorces involving custody in Nova Scotia in 1998.

Fewer babies are being born to married mothers.

Figure 26.

- While births to not married mothers have been on the rise, births to married mothers in Nova Scotia have been decreasing.
- Although births to married mothers remained relatively stable in the first half of the 1900's, declines begin in the 1960's, corresponding with increases in the divorce rate.
- Between 1961 and 1997, the percentage of births to married mothers decreased from 93% to 65%.

The age at which most women have children is increasing.

Average Age of Mothers
Nova Scotia, 1986-1996

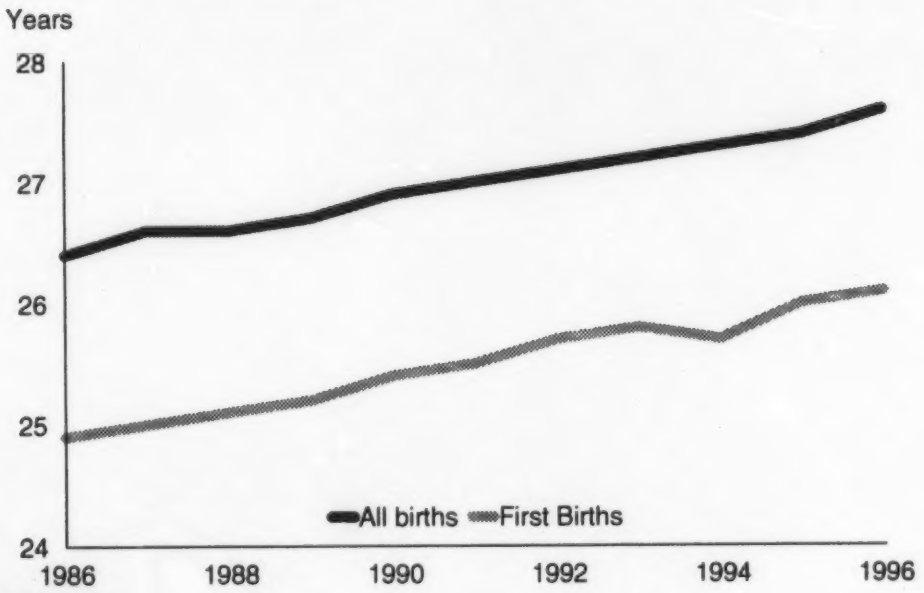

Figure 27.

- The average age at which women in Nova Scotia are having children has been increasing since 1975.
- In 1986, the average age of mothers giving birth for the first time was 24.9 years and for all births it was 26.4 years.
- In 1996, the average age of mothers giving birth for the first time was 26.1 years and for all births it was 27.6 years.

The proportion of births to women over the age of 30 is increasing noticeably.

Proportion of Births to Mothers Aged 30+
Nova Scotia, 1986-1997

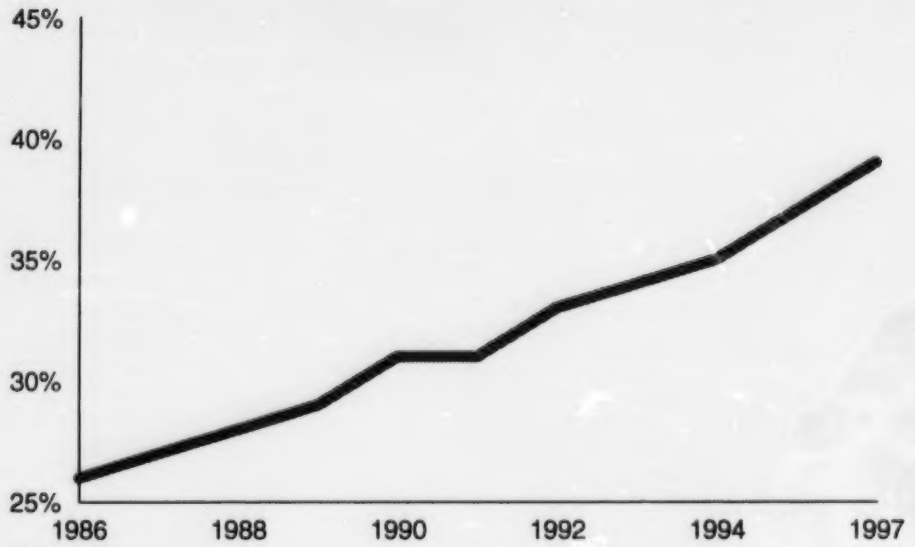

Figure 28.

- In 1986, 26 percent of births in Nova Scotia were to mothers aged 30 and over.
- In 1997, 39 percent of births in Nova Scotia were to mothers aged 30 and over.

One-third of babies born in Nova Scotia now start their lives with mothers who are not married.

Births to Not Married Women
Nova Scotia, 1961-1997

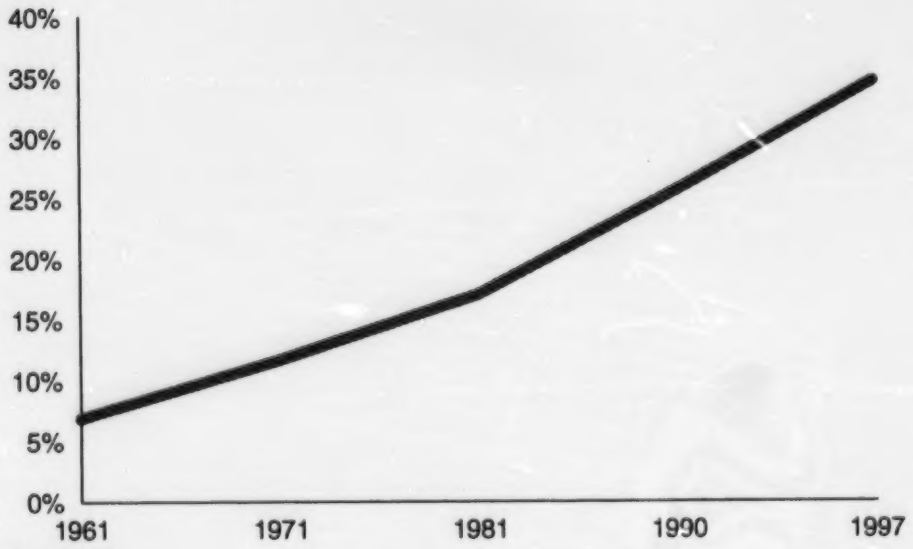

Figure 29.

- In 1961, just under 7 percent of births in Nova Scotia were to unmarried mothers.
- By 1997, 34.7 percent of births in Nova Scotia were to unmarried mothers.
- There were 1,334 births to unmarried mothers in 1961, compared to 3,457 births to unmarried mothers in 1997.

Twenty percent of families with children in Nova Scotia are headed by female lone-parents.

Female-headed lone-parent families as a percentage of all families with children, by province, 1996

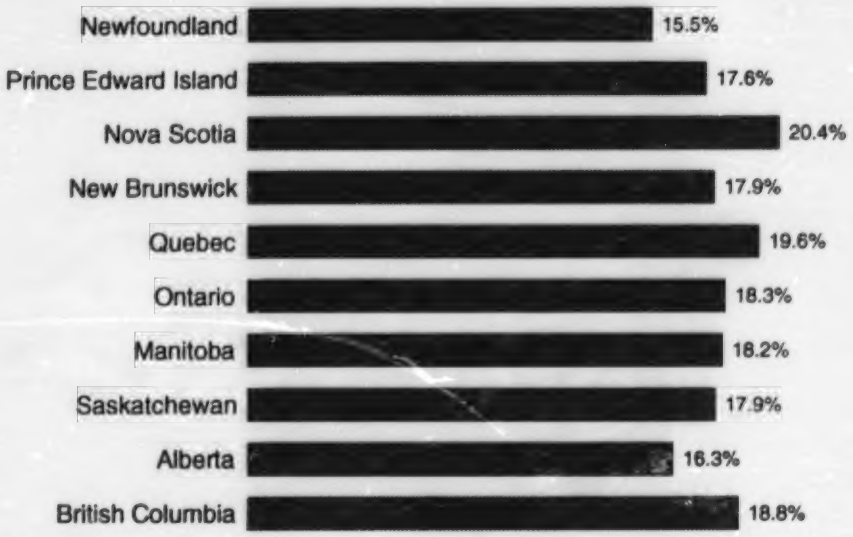

Figure 30.

- The proportion of families with children that are headed by female lone parents ranges provincially from 15.5 percent to 20.4 percent with Nova Scotia at the high end of the range.
- In 1996, 33,640 families in Nova Scotia were headed by female lone parents and 6,040 families were headed by male lone parents.

Unlike in the past, most female lone parents today are either single or divorced.

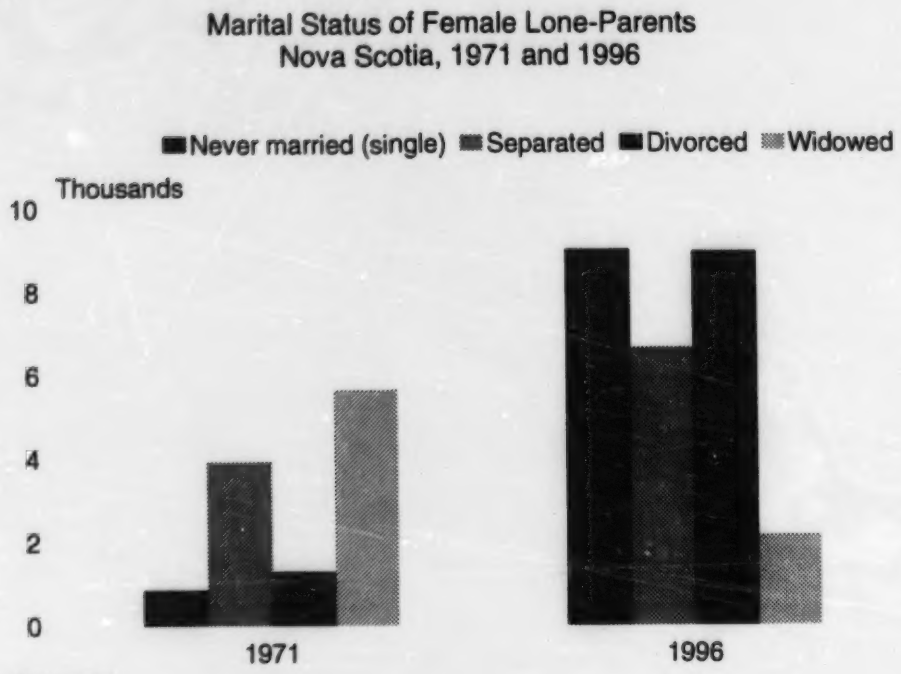

Figure 31.

- In 1971, 7.1 percent of female lone-parents in Nova Scotia were single (never married), 10.9 percent were divorced, 33.6 percent were separated and 48.5 percent were widowed.

- By 1996, 33.6 percent of female lone-parents in Nova Scotia were single (never married), 33.4 percent were divorced, 24.9 percent were separated and only 8 percent were widowed.

Most unmarried women who are having children today are not teenagers.

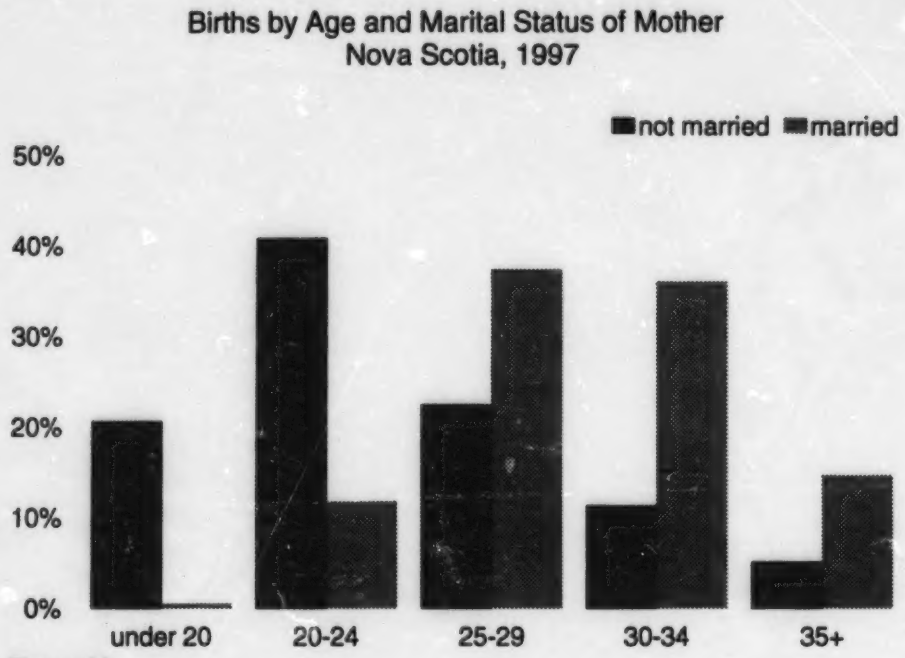

Figure 32.

- Although there are differences in the ages of married versus unmarried women giving birth, the vast majority (79.4 percent) of unmarried women giving birth in Nova Scotia are aged 20 and over. In Nova Scotia, 20.6 percent of unmarried women giving birth are under age 20 compared to 16.1 percent for Canada as a whole.

- 99.5 percent of married women giving birth in Nova Scotia are aged 20 and over. Only 0.5 percent of married women giving birth are under age 20.

Nova Scotian families are smaller than they used to be.

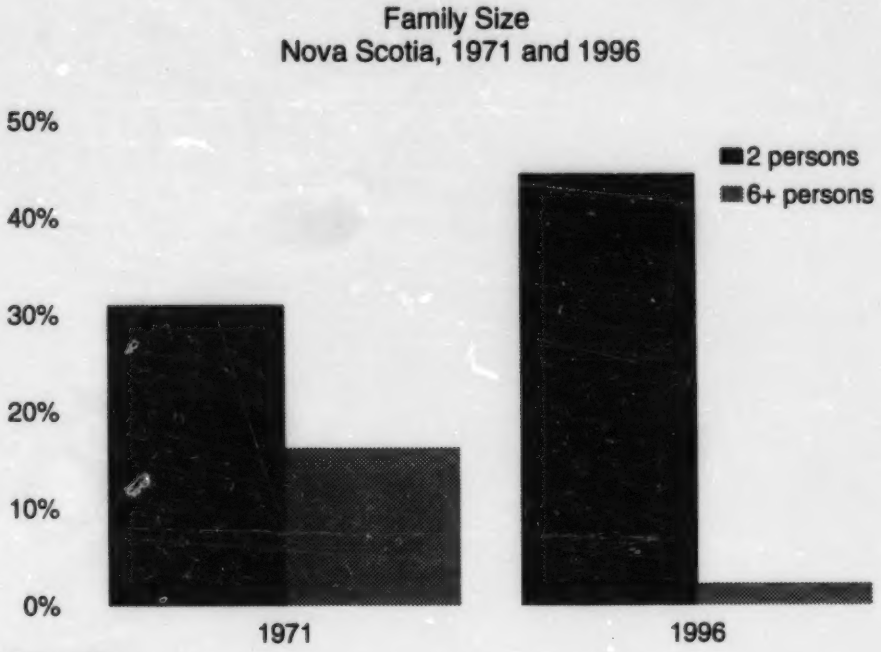

Figure 33.

- In 1971, 30.9 percent of families in Nova Scotia were comprised of two persons. By 1996, two-person families made up 44.4 percent of all Nova Scotian families.

- In 1971, 16.2 percent of families in Nova Scotia were comprised of six or more persons. By 1996, families with 6 or more members made up only 2.2 percent of all Nova Scotian families.

Most children in Nova Scotia live in families with two married parents.

Children under age 25 by Family Type
Nova Scotia, 1996

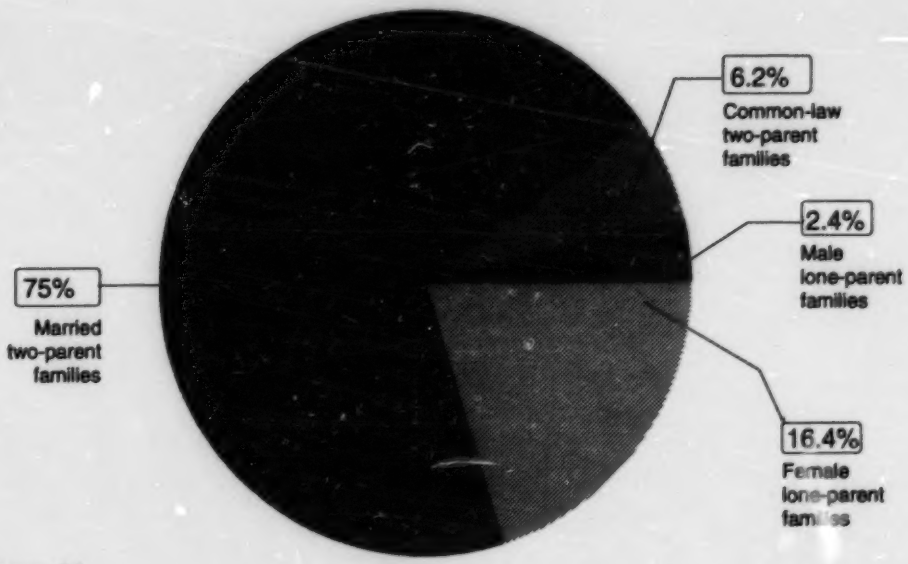

Figure 34.

- Three quarters (75%) of children under age 25 in Nova Scotia live in families with two married parents. This is comparable to the Canadian rate of 74.3 percent.
- Nineteen percent of children in Nova Scotia live in lone-parent families. 16.4 percent of children live in female lone-parent families and 2.4 percent live in male lone-parent families.
- Just over six percent of children in the province live in families with two parents who are living common-law.

Close to twenty percent of children in Nova Scotia live in low-income circumstances.

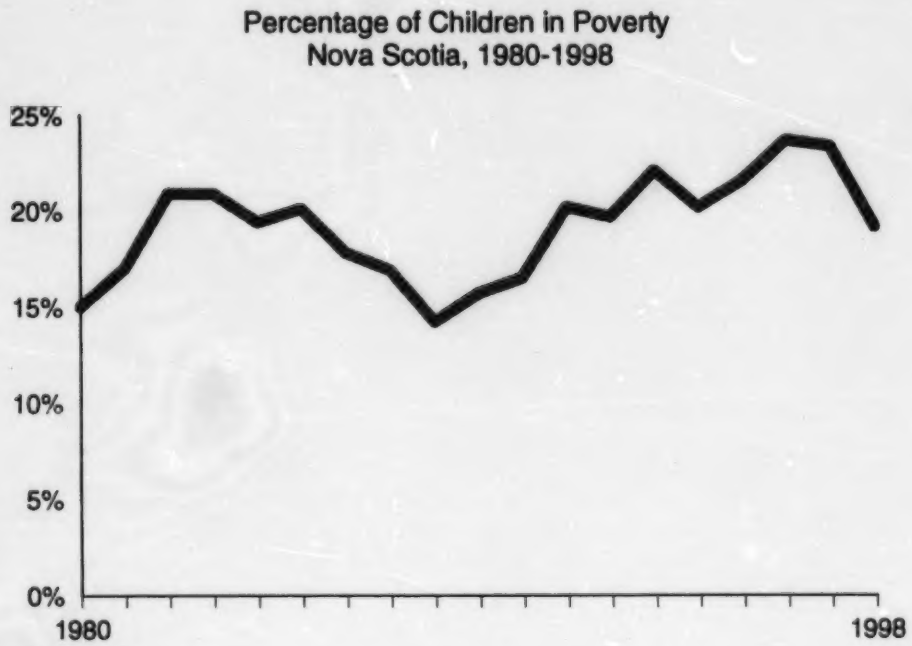

Figure 35.

- Since 1980, the percentage of children living in low-income circumstances has ranged from a low of 14.2 percent in 1988 to a high of 23.7 percent in 1996.
- In 1998, 19.2 percent of children in Nova Scotia were living in low-income circumstances.

More than half of Nova Scotia's poor children live in lone-parent families.

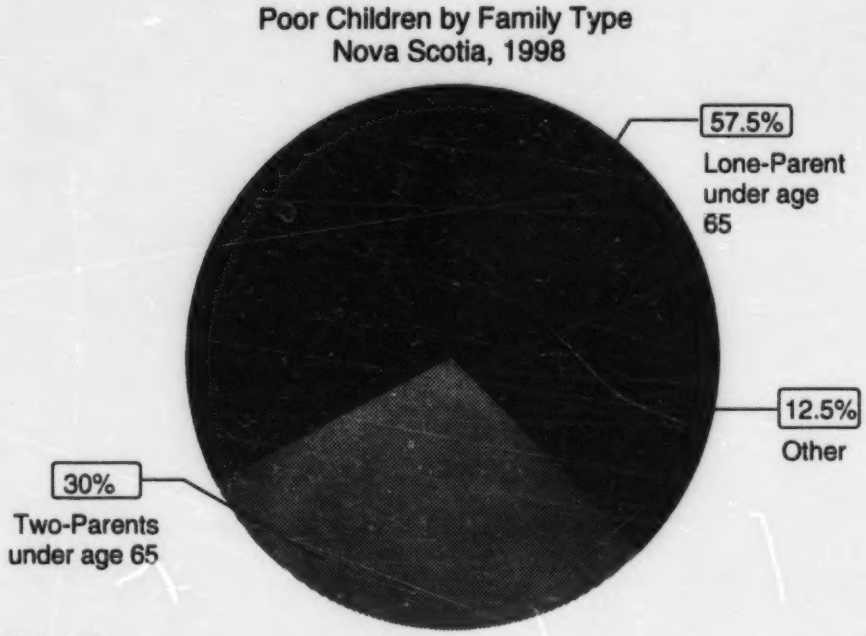

Figure 36.

- Although lone-parent families comprise approximately one quarter of families with children in the province, more than half (57.5 percent) of Nova Scotia's poor children live in non-elderly, lone-parent families (parent under age 65).

- Two-parent families, which comprise approximately three-quarters of families with children in the province, account for 30 percent of Nova Scotia's poor children.

- In Nova Scotia, poverty rates among 0-14 year-olds are also significantly higher for Aboriginal children (42 percent) and visible minority children (49.2 percent) as well as for children with activity limitations (39.5 percent) as compared to non-Aboriginal (24.3 percent), non-visible minority (24.4 percent) and children without activity limitations (24.3 percent). (Source: Canadian Council on Social Development, 2000).

Lone-parent families are four times more likely than husband-wife families to rent rather than own their homes.

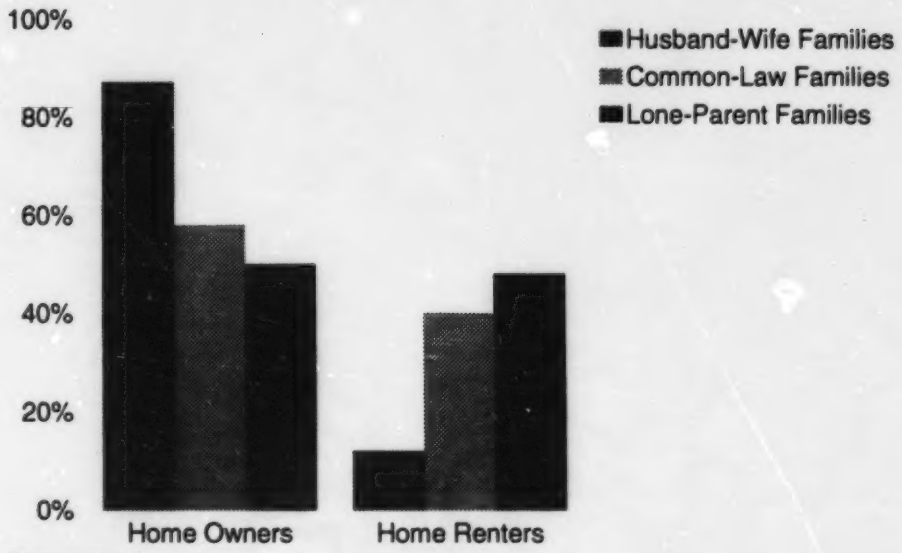

Figure 37.

- Husband-wife families are more than seven times as likely to own their homes as they are to rent their homes.
- Common-law families are almost one and a half times as likely to own their homes as they are to rent their homes.
- Lone-parent families are about as likely to rent their homes as they are to own their homes.
- 87 percent of husband-wife families versus 50 percent of lone-parent families own their homes.

Lone-parent mothers with young children have lower labour force participation rates than married mothers.

Female Labour Force Participation Rates by Family Status
and Age of Youngest Child
Nova Scotia, 1999

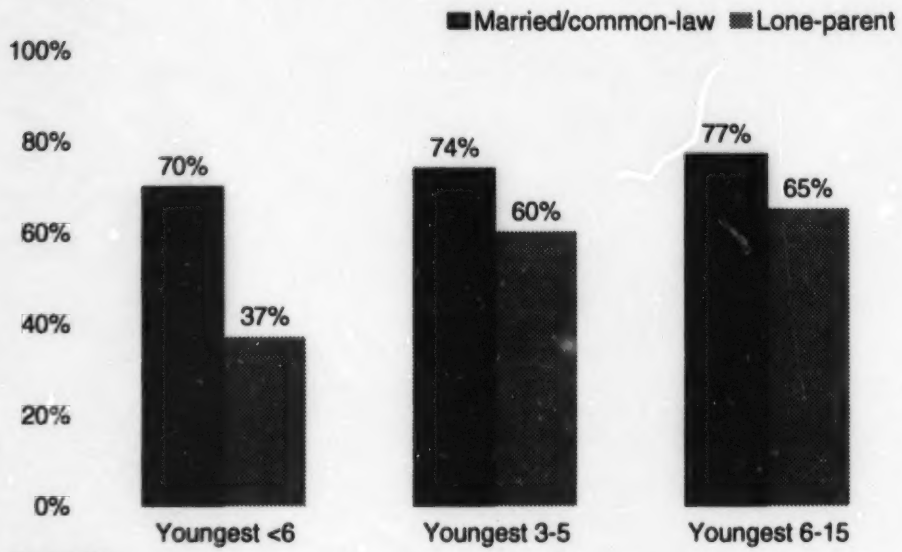

Figure 38.

- Female lone-parents are considerably less likely to be in the paid labour force than their married counterparts.
- While 70 percent of women who are married/common-law and whose youngest child is under the age of six are in the paid labour force only 37 percent of women who are lone-parents and whose youngest child is under the age of six are in the paid labour force.
- Though labour force participation increases substantially for lone-parents as the age of their youngest child increases, their labour force participation never equals that of married women with children.

Female lone-parents in Nova Scotia have lower levels of education than their married counterparts.

Educational Attainment of Female Parents by Family Status
Nova Scotia, 1996

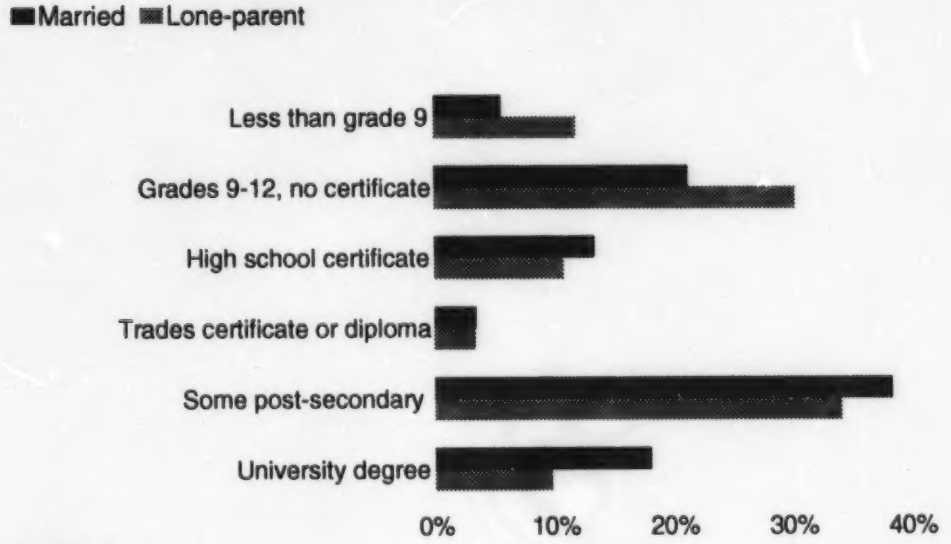

Figure 39.

- One likely reason for some of the difference in labour force participation between married women with children and female lone parents is the difference in their levels of education.
- In 1996, 42 percent of female lone parents in Nova Scotia had not completed high school compared with 27 percent of married/common-law mothers.
- In 1996, female lone-parents were twice as likely to have less than a grade 9 education and only half as likely to have a university degree than married/common-law mothers.

Childcare in Nova Scotia

Need for Childcare in Nova Scotia, 1998

Age	Total children	Children with Mothers in Paid Labour Force	% of Children Needing Care
Birth to 2 years	30500	18000	59%
3 to 5 years	33000	20000	61%
6 to 12 years	88500	59000	67%
Total (birth to 12 years)	152000	97000	64%

Table 2.

- While 64 percent of children under age twelve in Nova Scotia have mothers in the paid labour force, only 7.3 percent (11,163) of those children have a regulated child care space (see below).
- Of those children for whom there is a regulated childcare space, only 20 percent (2,225) are subsidized.

Percentage of Children Aged 0-12 for whom there is a Regulated Childcare Space, Provinces, 1998

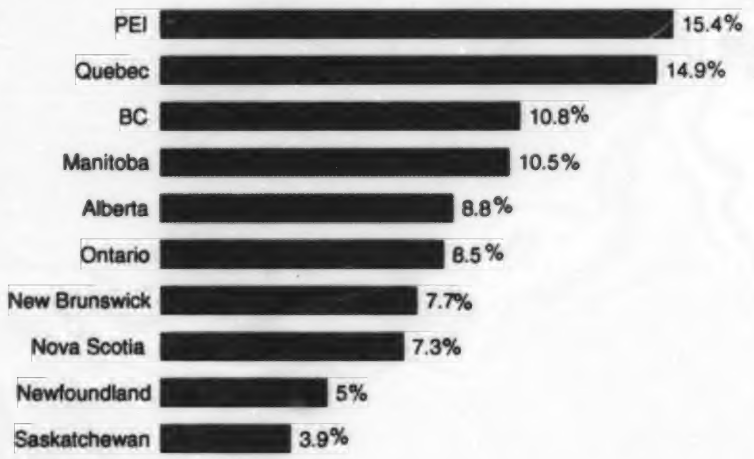

Figure 40.

Sources

Figure 1.
Population by Sex
Nova Scotia, 2000
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Matrices 6367-6379 and 6408-6409.

Figure 2.
Population by Age and Sex
Nova Scotia, 1921, 1961, 1996, 2026
Source: Statistics Canada, Population Projections to 2026 for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, data supplied by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division; Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96002; Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1961 - Population - General Characteristics, Vol. 1, Part 2.

Figure 3.
Age by Ethno-Cultural Characteristics
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census Tables: 94F0009XDB96001, 94F0009XDB96003, and 94F0009XDB96191.

Figure 4.
Population Aged 65+ by Sex
Nova Scotia, 2000
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Matrices 6367-6379 and 6408-6409.

Figure 5.
Seniors by Age Group and Sex
Nova Scotia, 2000
Source: Statistics Canada, Population Projections to 2026 for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, data supplied by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division.

Figure 6.
Disability Rates by Age and Sex
Nova Scotia, 1991
Source: Statistics Canada, Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS), 1991. Data provided by Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission.

Figure 7.
Urban and Rural Population Distribution
Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, Population and Dwelling Count, 1997.

Figure 8.
Total Fertility Rate
Nova Scotia, 1921-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Numbers 84-204 & 91-209-XPE.

Figure 9.
Natural Increase
Nova Scotia, 1921-1999
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Numbers 84-204 and 91-209-XPE.

Figure 10.
Net Migration
Nova Scotia, 1972-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-213.

Figure 11.
Life Expectancy at Birth
Nova Scotia, 1921-1998
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 89-506, 91-209-XPE.

Figure 12.
Children and Seniors as Proportion of Population
Nova Scotia, 1921-2026
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Cansim Matrices 6367-6379, 6408-6409; Population Projections to 2026 for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, data supplied by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division.

Figure 13.
Private and Collective Households
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Tables 93F0030XDB96006 and 93F0022XDB96010.

Figure 14.
Marital Status by Sex
Nova Scotia, 2000
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Matrices 6213-6224 and 6226-6227.

Figure 15.
Marital Status of Females in Nova Scotia
by Ethno-Cultural Characteristics, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census Tables: 94F0009XDB96001, 94F0009XDB96003, and 94F0009XDB96191.

Figure 16.
Living Arrangements of Females not Living in Families
by Ethno-Cultural Characteristics, Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census Tables: 94F0009XDB96001, 94F0009XDB96003, and 94F0009XDB96191.

Figure 17.
Persons Living Alone
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96010.

Figure 18.
Widowed Seniors by Sex
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96005.

Figure 19.
Family Types in Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96008.

Figure 20.
Women's Family Status by Ethno-Cultural Characteristics
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census Tables: 94F0009XDB96001, 94F0009XDB96003, and 94F0009XDB96191.

Figure 21.
Percentage Increase in Family Types
Nova Scotia, 1981-1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 94F0009XDB96047.

Figure 22.
Total First Marriage Rate
Nova Scotia, 1976-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada, Catalogue no. 91-209-XPE, Table 5.

Figure 23.
Average Age at First Marriage
Nova Scotia, 1971-1996
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue numbers 84-214-XPE, 82-003S16, 82-003S, and 84-205.

Figure 24.
Marriages and Divorces
Nova Scotia, 1971-1998
Source: Statistics Canada, Marriages and Divorces, Vol. II, catalogue 84-205; Vital Statistics Compendium, 1996, catalogue 84-214-XPE; CANSIM Matrices 6 & 7.

Figure 25.
Custody of Dependent Children in Divorce
Nova Scotia, 1998
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada's Divorces, 1998, Catalogue 84F0213XPB.

Figure 26.
Births by Marital Status of Mother
Nova Scotia, 1921-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 84-204 and 91-213

Figure 27.
Average Age of Mothers
Nova Scotia, 1986-1996
Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Compendium, 1996, catalogue 84-214-XPE.

Figure 28.
Proportion of Births to Mothers Aged 30+
Nova Scotia, 1986-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Compendium, 1996, catalogue 84-214-XPE.

Figure 29.
Births to Not Married Women
Nova Scotia, 1961-1997
Source: Statistics Canada, Births and Deaths, Vol. I, Catalogue 84-204; Births 1988, BCSD's General Summary, Canada and Provinces, Detailed; Births, Catalogue 84-A-204; Births and Deaths 1997, Catalogue 84F0210XPB.

Figure 30.
Female-headed lone-parent families as a percentage of all families with children, by province, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96009.

Figure 31.
Marital Status of Female Lone-Parents
Nova Scotia, 1971 and 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 94F0009XDB96048.

Figure 32.
Births by Age and Marital Status of Mother
Nova Scotia, 1997
Source: Statistics Canada, 1997 custom tabulation provided by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division.

Figure 33.
Family Size
Nova Scotia, 1971 and 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96007.

Figure 34.
Children under age 25 by Family Type
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census, Table 93F0022XDB96008.

Figure 35.
Percentage of Children in Poverty
Nova Scotia, 1980-1998
Source: National Council of Welfare, Poverty Report, 1998

Figure 36.
Poor Children by Family Type
Nova Scotia, 1998
Source: National Council of Welfare, Poverty Report, 1998

Figure 37.
Household Tenure by Family Type
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census custom tabulation provided by Human Resources Development Canada, Planning and Evaluation Division.

Figure 38.
Female Labour Force Participation Rates by Family Status and Age of Youngest Child
Nova Scotia, 1999
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, from Labour Market Brief, Human Resources Development Canada, Planning and Evaluation Division.

Figure 39.
Educational Attainment of Female Parents by Family Status
Nova Scotia, 1996
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census custom tabulation provided by Human Resources Development Canada, Planning and Evaluation Division.

Figure 40.
Percentage of Children Aged 0-12 for whom there is a Regulated Childcare Space, Provinces, 1998
Source: Early Childhood Care and Education in Canada: Provinces and Territories 1998, University of Toronto, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, 2000.

Table 1.
Amounts Drawn from Pension Plans
Nova Scotia, 1990, 1994, and 1997.
Source: Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division, data provided by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division.

Table 2.
Need for Childcare – Nova Scotia, 1998
Source: Early Childhood Care and Education in Canada: Provinces and Territories 1998, University of Toronto, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, 2000.

Technical Notes

Ethno-Cultural Characteristics:

Black Nova Scotians: Refers to the 1996 Census variable Visible Minority Population which includes the following population groups:

- Total Visible Minority Population
- Black
- South Asian
- Chinese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Southeast Asian
- Filipino
- Arab/West Asian
- Latin American
- Visible Minority, n.i.e.
- Multiple Visible Minority
- All others (including persons who self-identify as Aboriginal and those not considered to be part of a visible minority group). (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)

Aboriginal: Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, ie., North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation. (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)

On/Off Reserve: For the purposes of 1996 Census data dissemination, population on lands associated with First Nations communities is referred to as the on-reserve population. The following census sub-division types are grouped to form the on-reserve population: Indian Reserve, Indian Government District, Village Cri, Terres Réservées, and Indian Settlement. (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)

Immigrant: Refers to people who are or have been landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years while others are recent arrivals. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number were born in Canada. (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)

Disability Rate: Refers to the proportion of the population identifying as having a disability in the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS). The HALS was not conducted in the 1996 census year as was done in 1991. Since little reliable data on disability was obtained from the 1996 Census, we have included only data from the HALS here. Unfortunately, very little sex-disaggregated data are available from HALS. The operational definition of "disability" used by Statistics Canada in collecting the HALS data was adopted form the World Health Organization and is as follows. *In the context of health experience, a disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.*

Urban and Rural Population: Urban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 per square kilometre, based on the previous census population counts. All territory outside urban areas is considered rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada. (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)

Total Fertility Rate: Is based on the fertility experience of the current year and refers to the average number of children born to a woman during her reproductive years. It is computed by summing a series of age-specific fertility rates. (Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 91-209-XPE)

Natural Increase: Refers to the change in population size over a given period as a result of the difference between the numbers of births and deaths. (Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 91-209-XPE)

The natural increase for 2026 is based on Statistics Canada population projections. (Statistics Canada, Population Projections to 2026 for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, data supplied by Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division)

Net Migration: Refers to the difference between immigration and emigration for a given area and period of time. Migration encompasses both international and inter-provincial components. International migration refers to population movement between Canada and a foreign country which involves a permanent change of residence. A distinction is made between *landed immigrants, returning Canadians* from other countries who settle in Canada and *emigrants* and the net change in non-permanent residents. Interprovincial migration refers to movement from one province to another involving a permanent change in residence. A person who takes up residence in another province is an out-migrant with reference to the province of origin, and an in-migrant with reference to the province of destination. (Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 91-209-XPE)

Life Expectancy: Refers to a statistic included in life tables, it is the average number of years remaining to be lived at birth or other ages, based on a set of age- and sex-specific mortality rates for a given year. (Statistics Canada, Health Statistics at a Glance).

Total first marriage rate: Refers to the proportion of males or females marrying before their 50th birthday. The rate relates to nuptiality conditions in a given year and it is calculated by summing the rates by age at first marriage.

Poverty/Low Income: Refers to Statistics Canada's revised low income cut-offs which were established based on national family expenditure data from 1969, 1978, 1986, and 1992. These data indicated that Canadian families spent, on average, 42% in 1969, 38.5% in 1978, 36.2% in 1986, and 34.7% in 1992 of their income on basic necessities. By adding 20 percentage points to the basic level of expenditure on necessities, new low income cut-offs were set at income levels differentiated by family size and degree of urbanization. Since then these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the consumer price index.

Statistics Canada's 1998 Low Income Cut-offs (1986 base)

	Size of area of residence				
Family Size	**500,000 or more**	**100,000 to 499,999**	**30,000 to 99,999**	**small urban regions**	**rural farm or non-farm**
1	$16,486	$14,481	$14,146	$12,896	$11,223
2	$22,346	$19,629	$19,175	$17,478	$15,215
3	$28,405	$24,951	$24,373	$22,217	$19,337
4	$32,706	$28,723	$28,062	$25,582	$22,264
5	$35,732	$31,384	$30,659	$27,949	$24,327
6	$38,787	$34,064	$33,279	$30,336	$26,406
7+	$41,717	$36,642	$35,795	$32,631	$28,401

Source: National Council of Welfare, Poverty Report, 1998

Figure 16. Family versus non-family persons: Statistics Canada defines a census family as consisting of a now-married couple (with or without never-married children), a couple living common-law (with or without never-married children), or a lone-parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married child living in the same dwelling. *Family persons*, therefore, refers to household members who belong to a census family. *Non-family persons* refers to household members who do not belong to a census family. They may be related to the census family (eg., divorced brother, brother-in-law, cousin, grandparent) or unrelated (eg., lodger, room-mate, employee). A person living alone is always a non-family person. (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 92-351-UIE, 1996 Census Dictionary, Final Edition)